

White House Fact Sheet

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION TAKES NEW STEPS TO REDUCE HUNGER, IMPROVE NUTRITION AND STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY

December 23, 1999

Today the Clinton Administration announced a strengthened Community Food Security Initiative to reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and help families become self-sufficient. The Community Food Security Initiative includes three important actions: launching a new "2000 in 2000 Campaign" to generate 2,000 public and private commitments to fight hunger over the next year; releasing a new guide for communities to improve nutritional access for underserved groups; and unveiling a new handbook from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on how communities can reduce hunger and pollution by improving food recovery efforts. The Administration today will also release data showing that efforts launched in 1997 have now recovered over 8.0 million pounds of food for the hungry.

STRENGTHENING THE FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE FOR AMERICA'S

COMMUNITIES. Even as the Federal government plays an important role in the fight against hunger through national programs such as Food Stamps, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and school lunch/school breakfast, an important part of the solution lies in partnerships with grassroots efforts. Under the leadership of Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, the Community Food Security Initiative is forging innovative partnerships with nonprofit groups, businesses and individuals, as well as with state, local, and tribal governments. Today, the Clinton Administration announced it is taking three new executive actions to help communities solve problems of food insecurity and hunger:

\$ "2000 in 2000" Campaign to Generate 2,000 New Government, Nonprofit, and Private Sector Commitments to Fight Hunger and Increase Food Security. Spearheaded by the USDA Community Food Security Initiative, this effort will build on new anti-hunger partnerships, including ones aimed at: helping homeless people move to independence, increasing community gardens, expanding Food Stamp public education efforts, increasing volunteer community service activities fighting hunger, and helping small farmers sell food directly to school meals programs. USDA Community Food Security Liaisons, now working in all fifty states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia, will provide technical assistance and one-stop-shopping to local entities wishing to make and implement commitments. Charitable and faith-based organizations will be critical partners in virtually all local efforts.

- \$ **New USDA Guide to Help Communities Improve Access to Nutrition Assistance Programs.** "The National Nutrition Safety Net - Tools for Community Food Security," includes specific guidance on how to improve program access for the homeless, as well as many other underserved groups such as immigrants, working families, and senior citizens.

- \$ **"Waste Not, Want Not", a Joint USDA/EPA Handbook on How Food Recovery and Donations Help Protect the Environment.** This handbook can help municipalities and business across the country understand how they can increase their donations of excess food, helping feed the homeless and other hungry Americans. Noting that food waste is one of the largest components of the solid waste stream, the guide urges the inclusion of food recovery efforts in all solid waste and recycling plans.(Available on-line at: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/wastenot.htm)

NATIONAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT WASTE OF FOOD ALSO PAYING OFF FOR THE HUNGRY. Along with these new actions on the Community Food Security Initiative, USDA announced it has recovered over 8 million pounds of food since 1997, which would otherwise have gone to waste and was instead used to feed the hungry. This food recovery effort, initiated by President Clinton through an Executive Memorandum issued on November 23, 1996, has already received the "Hammer Award" for reinventing government. It continues to expand its efforts, at virtually no cost to the government, to help farmers, ranchers, and others donate excess food to feed the hungry.

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